

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2022



Merry Christmas! Town activities for the final month of 2022 remain busy – here's an overview as we go into the holidays.

1 Town Capital Budget: The 2023/24 Town General and Water Utility Capital Budgets were approved on December 13, 2022 – well ahead of past practice. This allows capital project planning to better align with construction season (typically May-Oct). For copies, see the Council agenda package: <https://www.townoflunenburg.ca/town-government/council-meetings.html>

2 Town Hall Exterior Restoration: A building condition assessment report on Town Hall came to Council this month. The building dates from 1893 and, as with many historic buildings, requires significant capital investment. Staff are exploring alternatives including relocating staff temporarily and restoring the building, permanently relocating Town Hall, and others. All options have considerable community and financial impact, with the exterior restoration alone estimated at \$3.4 million. These are early days in this conversation, however – more information is to come.

3 Renaming of Cornwallis Street and Parks: Council approved recommendations from its Anti-Racism Special Committee to rename Cornwallis Street and two local parks in honour of African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq residents from Lunenburg's history. Blockhouse Hill Park will now be Sylvia Park and the 250th Anniversary Park will now be Labrador Park. Interpretive improvements will be scheduled for these locations. The final street name to replace Cornwallis will

be determined through consultation with residents. More information to come in the new year.

4 Development Update: The most recent **Building Permit Report** (year-to-date from Jan 1-Nov 30, 2022) shows that building permits were issued for 40 dwelling units, compared to 16 units in the same period of 2021. We are watching these welcome trends closely and hope to see them accelerate.

A new **Land Divesture Policy** was approved this month to guide the method of declaring properties surplus (i.e., not of use for Town operations) and how sales may be approached. A **Street Service Extension Policy** was also approved to guide the installation of public services (water, sewer, etc.) in new development proposals.

5 Capital Projects: Public Works has been focusing heavily on construction projects ahead of winter weather. A sewer line installation by the tennis courts and sewer repair at Lunenburg Academy took place recently, as well as sewer and lateral line work in several locations. Street restoration from the Tannery Road watermain project was completed, along with various sidewalk improvements and street repairs around town. Thanks to the crews.

I hope to see some of you at the New Year's Day Levees (12-2pm at the Fire Hall and 1-2:30pm at the Legion) to begin a good 2023 for Lunenburg. Happy holidays.

Mayor Matt Risser
Town of Lunenburg